STATE OF IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: MOULTON MUNICIPAL GAS COMPANY, CITY OF MOULTON	DOCKET NO. P-853

ORDER ASSIGNING TO PRESIDING OFFICER

(Issued November 21, 2003)

On March 19, 2003, the Moulton Municipal Gas Company, City of Moulton (Moulton), filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a petition for a permit for an existing natural gas pipeline in Appanoose County, Iowa. The pipeline was originally permitted in 1975 and the permit had expired on September 20, 2000. The pipeline consists of 5.3 miles of 2.375-inch diameter pipe serving the city of Moulton. By letter dated February 3, 2003, Board staff notified Moulton of the need to obtain a permit for the pipeline.

Board staff reviewed the petition and notified Moulton of deficiencies in the petition by letters dated June 23 and September 25, 2003. On August 15 and October 7, 2003, Moulton filed revisions to the petition and provided additional information. Board staff filed a route inspection report on June 23, 2003.

Iowa Code § 479.7 (2003) requires the Board to set a hearing in a pipeline proceeding upon the filing of a petition. The Board finds that the petition, as revised, sufficiently meets the Board's filing requirements and the Board will assign Docket

No. P-853 to a presiding officer to establish a procedural schedule and conduct a

hearing. The inspection report filed by Board staff recommends Moulton file

additional information addressing whether Moulton has the necessary property rights,

including valid easements, since the original permit expired in 2000. The presiding

officer should review this recommendation and take the appropriate action.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

Docket No. P-853 is assigned to a presiding officer to establish a procedural

schedule and exercise the authority provided in 199 IAC 7.1(4).

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper   /s/ Elliott Smith
Executive Secretary

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 21st day of November, 2003.